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public interest environmental law

June 12, 2013

Via Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested

Regional Freedom of Information Officer U.S. EPA, Region 10 Office of External Affairs 1200 6th Ave. (CEC-142) Seattle, WA 98101

Re: FOIA Request re Idaho's Clean Water Act § 303(e) Continuing Planning Process

Dear Officer:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552, I am writing on behalf of the Idaho Conservation League (ICL) to request the following documents from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The requested documents concern the Clean Water Act (CWA) requirement that each state develop and submit to EPA a "continuing planning process" (CPP), which EPA is to approve or disapprove and review from time to time. 33 U.S.C. § 1313(e). ICL requests:

- 1. Any and all <u>CPPs submitted by the State of Idaho</u> to EPA.
- 2. Any and all EPA approvals, disapprovals, and reviews of CPPs submitted by the State of Idaho.
- 3. Any and all <u>additional documents regarding CPPs submitted by the State of Idaho</u> to EPA, including but not limited to communications between EPA and Idaho.
- 4. Any and all <u>other documents regarding the CWA's CPP requirement in the State of Idaho</u>, including but not limited communications between EPA and Idaho regarding Idaho's need to, or failure to, submit or revise a CPP.

ICL seeks a full fee waiver under 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii) for the search and production costs associated with this request. ICL is a non-profit organization with no commercial interest in the requested information. The public has a long-term interest in the protection of water quality in Idaho. The requested information consists of agency documents not previously made available to the general public. And the disclosure of the information will contribute significantly to public understanding of Idaho's process for

developing and revising water quality standards, as well as public understanding of EPA's oversight role in this process, as ICL has the substantial ability to, and intends to, disseminate this information to the public through publications, such as ICL's quarterly newsletter and postings on ICL's website (www.idahoconservation.org), as well as by other means.

As required by the FOIA, you must respond to this request within 20 working days of receiving this letter. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(6)(A)(i). Please contact me should you have any questions about ICL's request. If these documents are available in electronic format, ICL will accept electronic documents. ICL does not expect this request to generate a voluminous response; however, if the response is large, ICL may be willing to narrow the scope of the request.

Sincerely,

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